

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 23-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and independent claims 1, 6, 10, 14, 15 and 16 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Verbitsky in the January 15, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The drawings were objected to, and claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 23-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. As agreed to during the personal interview, the amendments to the specification made in the November 2, 2007 Amendment overcome the objection and rejections to the claims. It is respectfully requested that the objection and rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 23-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Okamura et al. (hereinafter "Okamura"), U.S. Patent No. 5,191,382. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Okamura fails to disclose a first attaching portion that is included in the second attaching portion with the second attaching portion having more attaching portions than the first attaching portion, as recited in the independent claims.

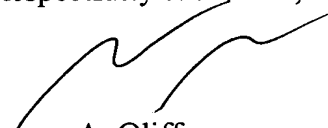
As discussed during the personal interview, Okamura's image forming system 50 uses the same pins 105 (that are placed inside corresponding holes of the image forming system 50) to position the cassette extender 102. Because Okamura uses the same pins 105 to attach all of the cassette extenders, Okamura cannot be said to have both a first attaching portion and a second attaching portion as called for by the independent claims.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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